

REMARKS

Upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-8 and 10-21 will be pending in this application. Applicant has canceled claim 9 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicant has amended claims 1-8 and 10-17 to conform to U.S. patent practice and remove multiple dependencies. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in the originally presented claims. New claims 18-21 are supported, for example, by Applicant's original claims 10-12 respectively. Applicant has not raised any issue of new matter.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.825, Applicant asserts that the Substitute Sequence Listing provided herewith adds no new matter. The paper copy (i.e., substitute sheets) and computer readable forms (compact disc COPY 1 and COPY 2) of the Substitute Sequence Listing are identical and include no new matter.

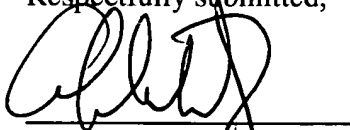
The specification is in the proper format. The present claims define patentable subject matter and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should it be believed that a conference would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at the number below.

U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP2004/051522
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Preliminary Amendment
Express Mail: EV 630723091 US

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2334 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,



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